

**County Executive**  
**of**  
**Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2015-06**

**Dated: May 29, 2015**

**Subject: Historic Ellicott City Flood  
Advisory Group**

**WHEREAS**, Howard County has had numerous incidents of flooding, including several major events such as Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, Hurricane Eloise in 1975, Hurricane Floyd in 1999, and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, however, most flood incidents are the result of tropical systems, nor'easters, and flash flooding from sudden, short-lived rainstorms; and

**WHEREAS**, flooding is a major problem in Historic Ellicott City and surrounding areas, causing significant property damage and personal loss; and

**WHEREAS**, per the Howard County Flood Mitigation Plan ("the Plan"), Historic Ellicott City is an area of significant or moderate flood vulnerability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan states: "The (Old) Ellicott City area will potentially be one of the most impacted during a 100-year flood event on the Patapsco River. This area was devastated in 1972 during the flood event after the torrential rainfall delivered by the remnants of Hurricane Agnes. During that historical event, the Patapsco River crested at 14.5 ft with a flood volume of 80,600 cubic feet per second. Nearly all structures (77) in the area may suffer flooding damage to their buildings and contents. Many are likely to be impacted significantly or severely. In addition to flooding from the Patapsco River, the (Old) Ellicott City area is also impacted by the Tiber Hudson Branch, Cat Rock Run, Autumn Hill Branch, and New Cut Branch. There are many businesses in the (Old) Ellicott City area, making both the buildings and their valuable contents vulnerable to flooding." *Howard County Flood Mitigation Plan at p. 28*; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has funded approximately \$2,500,000 for a first phase of flood mitigation projects in the Historic Ellicott City area; and

**WHEREAS**, Phase I includes such projects as the inspection, design and construction of retaining walls, a flood proofing study, and the reformation of a channel under the Tiber Park Bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive would like community input related to the development, implementation, and maintenance of flood mitigation projects in Historic Ellicott City to be included in Phase II; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive wishes to establish an Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group to assist in identifying projects to be included in Phase II and to assist the Department of Public Works with community assistance, public outreach and education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Group would also help to establish criteria for how to implement projects on private property and to assist in community plans related to flood proofing; and

**WHEREAS**, the District One County Council representative has worked with the Administration to appoint members, select the Chair, and facilitate efforts related to the mission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland that a Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group is hereby established and charged with the following mission:

1. To act on initiatives identified to reduce flooding in the historic district and other parts of the community in events less than the 50-year storm;
2. To evaluate proposed prioritization, outcomes, and schedules for flood mitigation and related infrastructure improvements in the future;
3. To conduct outreach to the community related to County projects and initiatives;
4. To seek citizen/community input and feedback, including conducting at least one public hearing each year;
5. To assist the County with seeking opportunities for additional funding sources;
6. To provide community educational opportunities on reducing impact of future flooding not mitigated through the County funded projects; and
7. To work with County staff towards possible reductions in FEMA insurance rates

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group shall consist of the following individuals:

Kevin Bloom  
Frank Durantaye  
Debra Korb  
Lori Lilly  
Jason McMillan  
Ken McNaughton  
Dave Myers  
Ron Peters  
Bruno Reich  
Debbie Slack Katz

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Debbie Slack Katz shall serve as the Chair, and that representatives from the following departments shall serve as advisors to the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group:

Office of Community Sustainability  
Office of Emergency Management  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
Department of Public Works

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that, at his request, Councilmember Jon Weinstein shall designate his Special Assistant to serve as an advisor to the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group.

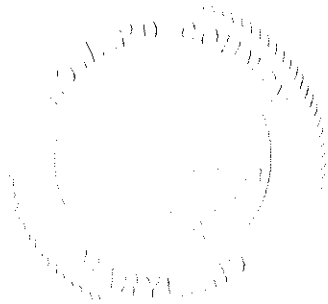
**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group may break into sub-committees to accomplish its tasks.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group may seek input from various Howard County agencies including, without limitation, the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Works, Department of Planning and Zoning, the Office of Community Sustainability and Office of the County Executive; and, as needed, may seek input from relevant State and Federal agencies.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group shall issue a report that shall be presented to the County Executive and County Council by December 1, 2015.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group, in consultation with the County Executive and the Councilmember representing District 1, shall make a recommendation by October 1, 2016 on whether there is a continuing need for such an Advisory Group. If such a recommendation is made, the County Executive may issue an appropriate Executive Order. If the Advisory Group recommends that it not continue, the Group shall cease to exist on November 1, 2016 and the terms of the Group members shall expire on November 1, 2016.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I, Allan H. Kittleman, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 29th day of May, 2015.



  
Allan H. Kittleman  
County Executive